

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 132

By Alexander

A RESOLUTION to designate June 2017 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month" and June 27, 2017, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect our freedom; and

WHEREAS, the diagnosis now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw of character and/or ability; the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur after experiencing a severely traumatic event to include, but not be exclusive to, sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

WHEREAS, PTSI is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and

WHEREAS, referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, making PTSI less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or shame; and

WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment of PTSI can diminish suicide rates; and

WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve our compassion and consideration; those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate the month of June 2017 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month" and June 27, 2017, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we respectfully urge the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the Department of Veterans Services, and the Department of the Military to continue working to educate victims of abuse, crime, and natural disaster; service members; veterans and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.